

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/722,899

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Applicant(s)

MACCONNELL, JOHN WALTER

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7-22-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-63,65 and 67-69.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3-1-2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Melur Ramakrishnaiah
MELUR RAMAKRISHNAIAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 25: at the end of the claim, and after "and", add -- a reader configured to transmit the wake-up signal and to receive the endpoint signal.—

Claim 42: at the end of the claim, delete "; and", and add -- . — after endpoint device

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention relates to meter reading system which includes an endpoint device and a reader.

The prior art of record in combination or alone fails to teach or suggest these elements of independent claims 1, 25, 41, and 67 in combination with other elements. For example independent claim 1 has claim limitations such as endpoint device comprising: a receiver normally powered-off and configured to periodically power-on for a first time period and to remain powered on for a second time period in response to signal strength of signals received during the first time period being at least equal to a threshold level, otherwise to power-off, and a transmitter configured to transmit an endpoint signal in response to the receiver receiving a wake-up signal during the

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second time period, and a reader configured to transmit a wake-up signal and to receive end point signal. Independent claim 25 has claim limitations such as: a receiver configured to be normally powered-off, a controller configured to periodically power-on the receiver for a first time period and to keep the receiver powered-on for a second time period in response to a signal strength of signals received during the first time period being at least equal to a threshold level, otherwise to power-off the receiver until a subsequent first time period, and a transmitter configured to transmit an endpoint signal in response to receiver receiving a wake-up signal during the second time period, and a reader configured to transmit wake-up signal and to receive the endpoint signal. Independent claim 41 has claim limitations such as an endpoint device configured to operably couple to a utility, the endpoint device comprising: a superhetrodyne (SH) receiver configured to be normally powered-off, a controller configured to periodically power-on the SH receiver for a first time period and to keep the SH receiver powered on for a second time period in response to a signal strength of signals received during the first time period being at least equal to a threshold level, otherwise to power-off the SH receiver until a subsequent time period, and a transmitter configured to transmit an endpoint signal in response to receiver receiving a wake-up signal during the second time period, and a reader configured to transmit the wake-up signal and to receive the endpoint signal. Independent claim 67 has claim limitations such as maintaining a receiver of an endpoint device in a normally powered-off state, powering on the receiver for a first time period, measuring the signal strength of signals during the first time period, maintaining the receiver in a powered-on state for a second time period in

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response to signal strength being equal to a threshold level, transmitting an endpoint signal from the endpoint device in response to receiving a wake-up signal during the second time period, and adjusting the threshold level based on the measured signal strength in response to a wake-up signal not being received during the second time period. For the above reasons independent claims 1, 25, 41, 67 and dependent claims 2-63, 65, 68-69 are allowable.

2. Claims 1-63, 65, 67-69 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
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